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Imagery analysis report

Propellant Transfer for the SS-18 Mod 4 Post-Boost Vehicle (S)

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PROPELLANT TRANSFER FOR THE SS-18 MOD-4 POST-BOOST VEHICLE (S)

1. (S/D) Propellant transfer operations for SS-18 MOD-4 post-boost vehicles (PBVs) at three SS-18 rail-to-road transfer points (RTPs) indicate that the PBVs are fueled prior to being delivered to launch sites. SS-18 payload-associated transporters (PATs) have been observed at the oxidizer dispensing buildings of the ICBM RTPs at Aleysk, Dombarovskiy, and Zhangiztobe (BE [redacted] respectively). The PAT is used to transport a component of the SS-18 MOD-4 PBV between an RTP and a launch site. The SS-18 MOD-4 is deployed in several launch groups at each of the six SS-18 complexes (Figure 1).

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2. (S/D) At Zhangiztobe ICBM RTP on [redacted] an SS-18 PAT and a propellant transfer support vehicle were at the oxidizer dispensing building (Figure 2). Two cables/hoses connected the propellant transfer support vehicle to an unidentified piece of equipment on the ground next to the PBV environmental container on the PAT. This unidentified piece of equipment, connected to the oxidizer dispensing building by at least one cable/hose, has only been seen during PBV propellant-related activity and may be a propellant flow monitoring device. Similar PBV propellant-related activity was seen at Aleysk ICBM RTP and Dombarovskiy ICBM RTP.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

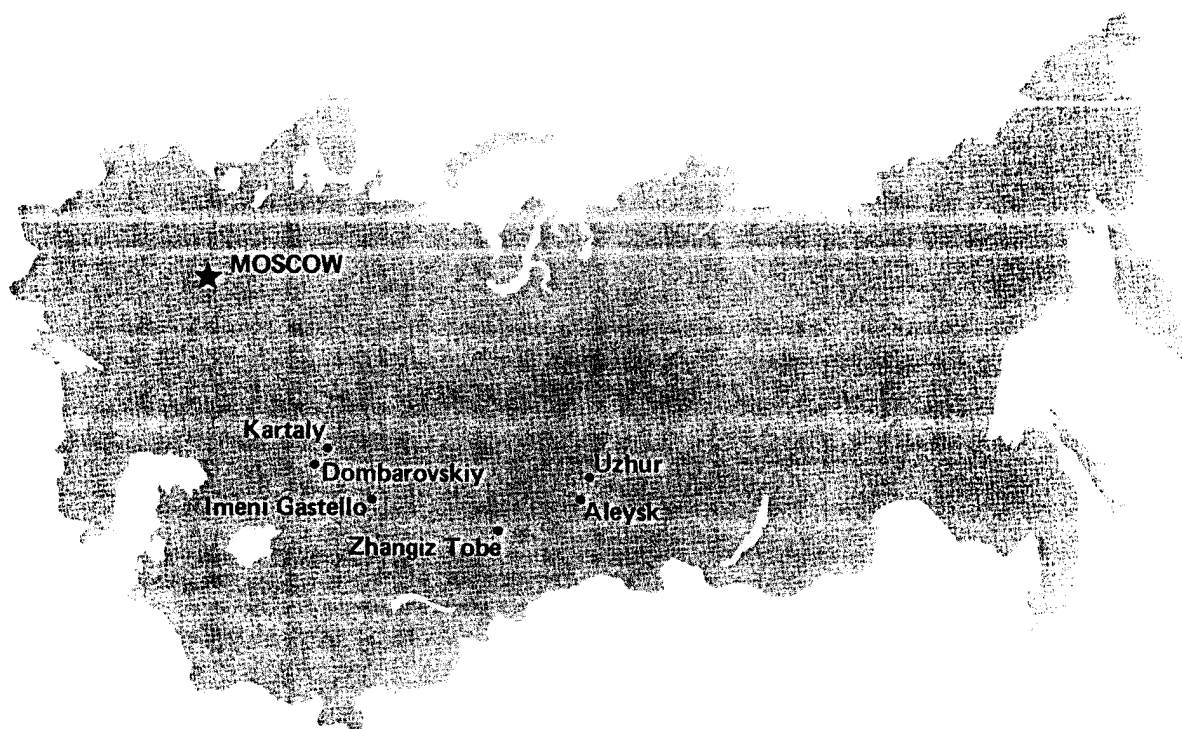
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FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF SS-18 COMPLEXES IN THE USSR

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- 1 -
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